

Media Contact:

Katie Gorscak

katie.gorscak@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release**FCC ANNOUNCES ALMOST \$38 MILLION IN EMERGENCY
CONNECTIVITY FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES*****Over 18 Million Students Nationwide Have Received Support to Date in
Ongoing Work to Close the Homework Gap***

WASHINGTON, October 4, 2023—The Federal Communications Commission today announced it is committing \$37.7 million in a new funding round through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, which provides digital tools and services to support students in communities across the country. Today’s funding commitment supports applications from the third application window, benefitting approximately 100,000 students nationwide, including students in Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington.

“Starting the school year off strong is important, but a student’s continued success is dependent on access to broadband connections and digital tools. That’s why we’re pleased to announce another round of funding to help close the Homework Gap for students,” **said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel.**

Today’s announcement will support approximately 220 schools and school districts, 2 library systems, and 4 consortia. The funding can be used to support off-campus learning, such as nightly homework, and online learning programs to ensure students across the country have the necessary support to keep up with their education. More details about which schools and libraries have received funding commitments can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund>.

Launched in 2021, the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program has provided schools and libraries three different “application windows” to apply for support. Approximately \$7.03 billion in funding commitments have been approved to date, approximately \$4.14 billion is supporting applications from Window 1; \$834 million from Window 2; and \$2.06 billion from Window 3. To date, the funding has provided support to over 18 million students, 11,400 schools, 1,060 libraries, and 125 consortia, and provided nearly 13 million connected devices and over 8 million broadband connections.

As a long-term solution to the Homework Gap, Chairwoman Rosenworcel recently announced her new initiative “Learn Without Limits” to modernize the E-Rate program to allow for Wi-Fi on school buses and for permanent support to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots. For more information see: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairwoman-rosenworcel-announces-learn-without-limits-initiative>.

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).